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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/602,288	06/24/2003	Burckhard Becker	200-80	1245

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AKERMAN SENTERFITT
P.O. BOX 3188
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33402-3188

EXAMINER

KYLE, MICHAEL J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3676

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/602,288

Applicant(s)

BECKER ET AL.

Examiner

Michael J Kyle

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1/6/05.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/10/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-10 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 19731305 A1 ("DE '305") in view of Suska (U.S. Patent No. 4,475,266). DE '305 discloses a hinge comprising a first hinge arm (2b) and a second hinge arm (2a) with each hinge arm having a bore. The bore of the first hinge arm (see figures 6a, 6b) comprises a retaining zone (left most portion of the bore, with a constant diameter, 16) and a compensation zone (right hand portion of the bore in the figures, 17). The compensation zone has greater radial inner dimension than the retaining zone and is defined by an inner lining. DE '305 also discloses a hinge pin (4) and a shim member (90c). The shim member deforms and fills out any space between the hinge pin and inner lining. DE '305 fails to disclose a step within the bore.

3. Suska teaches a hinge assembly comprising two hinge arms (14, 18) with a bore extending through the arms. Suska further shows a hinge pin (20) and a shim (40, 42). The bore includes a step (described as "a transverse annular shoulder" column 3, lines 50-51) that acts as a seat for the shim (40, 42). Providing a seat for a shim or bushing, positively and securely locates the shim or bushing in a bore. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify DE '305 as taught by Suska, such that DE '305 includes a step between the compensation and retaining zones, in order to provide a seat for the shim

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member (90b) of DE '305. Providing a shim member will positively and securely located the shim in the bore.

4. With respect to claim 2, DE '305 discloses the inner lining to be defined by a cone having an aperture angle between 0 and 90 degrees (see figures 6a, 6b).

5. With respect to claim 3, the combination of DE '305 and Suska shows a shim member (90c of DE '305) having an axial length greater than the distance between the step and an outer surface of the first hinge arm. Examiner notes that step will be located between the compensation and retaining zones. In figure 6b, DE '305 shows the shim member having an axial length that extends past this region.

6. With respect to claims 4-6, DE '305 discloses the hinge pin (4) to have a radial shoulder (8, in figure 1) resting on an inner surface of the second hinge arm. The shim member is made from a mechanically plastic material (DE '305, English abstract). The retaining zone is dimensioned so as to be capable of taking a maximum radial tensile load. Examiner notes that there is no structure claimed in the present application that makes the retaining zone capable of performing the claimed function. Because the retaining zone of DE '305 meets all the limitations of the claimed retaining zone, examiner asserts that the retaining zone of DE '305 is capable of performing the claimed function.

7. With respect to claim 7, neither DE '305 nor Suska discloses the compensation zone to have an axial length that is not smaller than 50% of the axial length of the bore of the first hinge arm. However, applicant has not provided any criticality for this axial dimension of the compensation zone. No new or unexpected result appears to arise by changing the axial length of the compensation zone. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in

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the art at the time of the invention to modify the compensation zone of DE '305 so that the length is not less than 50% of the axial length of the bore of the first hinge, and no new or unexpected result is produced from such a modification.

8. With respect to claims 8 and 9, DE '305 discloses the shim member (90c) to have a front portion and an initial shape. The front portion is inserted into the retaining zone (see figure 6b) and has a final shape that is plastically deformed relative to the initial shape. The inner lining is defined by a cone having an aperture angle between 10 and 45 degrees.

9. With respect to claim 10, the combination of DE '305 and Suska shows the shim member (90c) to have a greater axial length than the distance between the step and an outer surface of the first hinge arm. Examiner notes that step of Suska will be located between the compensation and retaining zones. In figure 6b, DE '305 shows the shim member having an axial length that extends past this region.

10. With respect to claims 12-14, DE '305 discloses a hinge comprising a first hinge arm (2b) and a second hinge arm (2a) with each hinge arm having a bore. The bore of the first hinge arm (see figures 6a, 6b) comprises a retaining zone (left most portion of the bore, with a constant diameter, 16) and a compensation zone (right hand portion of the bore in the figures, 17), one located behind the other. The compensation zone has greater radial inner dimension than the retaining zone and is defined by an inner lining. DE '305 also discloses a hinge pin (4) and a shim member (90c, or 9, 10 in figure 2). The shim member deforms and fills out any space between the hinge pin and inner lining. The embodiment of DE '305 shown in figure 2 shows the shim (9, 10) that does not reach the retaining zone. DE '305 fails to disclose a step within the bore.

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11. Suska teaches a hinge assembly comprising two hinge arms (14, 18) with a bore extending through the arms. Suska further shows a hinge pin (20) and a shim (40, 42). The bore includes a step (described as “a transverse annular shoulder” column 3, lines 50-51) extending in the radial direction and is contiguous to a retaining zone (around 40) that acts as a seat for the shim (40, 42). The step delimits a compensation zone (around 42) towards the retaining zone (around 40). Providing a seat for a shim or bushing, positively and securely locates the shim or bushing in a bore. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify DE ‘305 as taught by Suska, such that DE ‘305 includes a step between the compensation and retaining zones, in order to provide a seat for the shim member (90b) of DE ‘305. Providing a shim member will positively and securely located the shim in the bore.

12. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE ‘305 in view of Suska as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kempf (U.S. Patent No. 5,542,505). Neither DE ‘305 nor Suska explicitly discloses the use of LPDE for the shim member.

13. Kempf teaches a spring hinge with a hinge pin (42) that rotates in an enclosure (46). Examiner considers the enclosure to be analogous to the shim of DE ‘305 because it is subject to a relative rotation. The enclosure may be made from low-density polyethylene (LPDE) (column 4, lines 55-58). It’s known to use LPDE for anti-friction purposes. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to construct the shim of DE ‘305 from LDPE because of its known low friction properties.

Response to Arguments

14. Applicant's arguments filed January 6, 2005, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

15. Applicant argues the DE '305 shows only compensation zones, not a compensation zone and a retaining zone. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Examiner asserts that the right hand portion of the bore (17) in the figure of DE '305 meets all claimed limitations of the compensation zone, and the left hand portion bore (16) meets all claimed structural limitations of the retaining zone. It is noted that the only structural limitations of the retaining zone in the claims are that the retaining zone is located behind the compensation and has a smaller radial inner dimension than the compensation zone. The left hand portion in the figures of DE '305 meets these limitations. The difference between the compensation zone and retaining zone is in the diameter of each zone. The retaining zone 16 has a constant diameter while the compensation zone 17 is in the shape of a cone where the diameter increases closer to the opening where the pin is received.

16. Applicant argues that Suska does not teach forcing bushing 29 into bore 40 or providing secure clearance compensation over a predeterminable length. Examiner notes that these features are shown in DE '305, to the extent that they are claimed. Suska is cited to teach the use of shoulder within a bore. Applicant further argues that Suska describes the annular shoulder in conjunction with bearing and separation of two hinge leaves, rather than being in conjunction with any reduction of play. Again, Suska is cited for the teaching of an annular shoulder within the bore. The shoulder in Suska appears to serve the same purpose as the shoulder in the instant application. Examiner notes pages 2 and 3 of the specification of the instant application, where it

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is stated the shim member is “loaded axially toward the step” (page 2, 3rd paragraph) and that “While being subjected to axial load and tension, the shim member is supported by the step” (page 3, 3rd paragraph). This is the same purpose the transverse annular shoulder of Suska provides. Suska shows that is known in the art to include an annular shoulder in a bore to provide support, or seat an object on. One having ordinary skill in the art would recognize that, based on the teachings of Suska, axial support within a bore may be provided by an annular shoulder so that an object in the bore is positively located. While Suska does not refer to member 40, 42 as a shim, it is noted that this member meets the structural limitations of the shim member, and is analogous to the shim member in that it is placed around a hinge pin and within bore. The shoulder is located between an area of larger diameter and an area of smaller diameter.

Conclusion

15. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

20. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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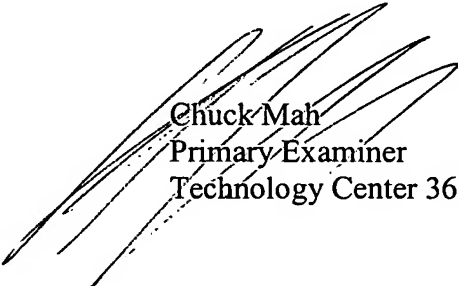
however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

21. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J Kyle whose telephone number is 703-305-3614. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

22. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Swann can be reached on 703-306-4115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

23. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

mk



Chuck Mah
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 3600